

## WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. An image processor for image correction on image data of lightness, saturation and hue, comprising:

a contrast corrector for correcting a value of lightness to change contrast of an image;

a maximum saturation determinator for determining maximum values of saturation for the values of the lightness before and after the correction of said contrast corrector; and

a saturation corrector for correcting a value of saturation in accordance with said maximum values of saturation determined by said maximum saturation determinator.

2. An image processor as claimed in claim 1, wherein said saturation corrector calculates a ratio of the maximum value of the saturation after the correction to that before the correction and corrects the value of the saturation by using said ratio.

3. An image processor as claimed in claim 1, wherein said saturation corrector does not execute the correction when the maximum value of the saturation after the correction is smaller than that before the correction.

4. An image processor as claimed in claim 1, wherein said maximum saturation determinator has a table of values of hue, lightness, and maximum saturation and determines

the maximum value of the saturation with reference to the table.

5. An image processing method for image correction on image data of lightness, saturation and hue, comprising:

5 a lightness correction step of correcting a value of lightness to change contrast of an image;

a determination step of determining maximum values of saturation for the values of the lightness before and after the correction in said lightness correction step; and

10 a saturation correction step of correcting a value of saturation in accordance with said maximum values of saturation determined in said determination step.

6. An image processing method as claimed in claim 5, wherein said saturation correction step calculates a ratio of the maximum value of the saturation after the correction to that before the correction and corrects the value of the saturation by using said ratio.

7. An image processing method as claimed in claim 5, wherein said saturation correction step is not executed when the maximum value of the saturation after the correction is smaller than that before the correction.

8. A computer program product for image correction on image data of lightness, saturation and hue, comprising:

25 a lightness correction step of correcting a value

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of lightness to change contrast of an image;

a determination step of determining maximum values of saturation for the values of the lightness before and after the correction in said lightness correction step;

5 and

a saturation correction step of correcting a value of saturation in accordance with said maximum values of saturation determined by said determination step.

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10 9. A computer program product as claimed in claim 8, wherein said saturation correction step calculates a ratio of the maximum value of the saturation after the correction to that before the correction and corrects the value of the saturation by using said ratio.

15 10. A computer program product as claimed in claim 8, wherein said saturation correction step is not executed when the maximum value of the saturation after the correction is smaller than that before the correction.

11. An image processor for image correction on image data of lightness, saturation and hue, comprising:

20 a setter for setting saturation correction factor;

a maximum saturation determinator for determining a maximum value of saturation for a value of lightness of each pixels; and

25 a saturation corrector for correcting a value of

saturation in accordance with said saturation correction factor and said maximum value of saturation determined by said maximum saturation determinator.

12. An image processor as claimed in claim 11,  
5 wherein said saturation corrector multiplies the saturation correction factor and said maximum value of saturation, and then adds it to a value of saturation for each pixel.

13. An image processing method for image correction on image data of lightness, saturation and hue, comprising  
10 the steps of:

setting saturation correction factor;

determining a maximum value of saturation for a value of lightness of each pixels; and

correcting a value of saturation in accordance  
15 with said saturation correction factor and said maximum value of saturation determined by said determining step.

14. An image processing method as claimed in claim 13, wherein said correcting step multiplies the saturation correction factor and said maximum value of saturation, and  
20 then adds it to a value of saturation for each pixel.

15. A computer program product for image correction on image data of lightness, saturation and hue, comprising the steps of;

setting saturation correction factor;

25 determining a maximum value of saturation for a

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value of lightness of each pixels; and

correcting a value of saturation in accordance with the saturation correction factor and said maximum value of saturation determined in said determining step.

- 5 16. A computer program product as claimed in claim 15, wherein said correcting step multiplies said saturation correction factor and said maximum value of saturation, and then adds it to a value of saturation for each pixel.

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